

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as in the following listing:

1. (Original) A reinforcing bar splice for joining reinforcing bars, the splice comprising:

a sleeve segment having longitudinal integral ribs deforming to conform to deformations on the reinforcing bars when the sleeve segment and the bars are relatively pressed together; and

a clamp operatively configured to relatively press the sleeve segment and the bars together.

2. (Original) The splice of claim 1, wherein the clamp is also configured to press relatively smooth portions of the bars into the ribs.

3. (Original) The splice of claim 1, wherein the ribs have rounded distal corners.

4. (Original) The splice of claim 1, wherein troughs between the ribs have proximal rounded corners.

5. (Original) The splice of claim 1, wherein the ribs are of substantially uniform width.

6. (Original) The splice of claim 1, wherein the ribs are enlarged at their distal ends.

7. (Original) The splice of claim 1, wherein the ribs are softer than the reinforcing bars.

8-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The splice of claim 1,
wherein the clamp includes a sleeve surrounding the bars; and
wherein the sleeve segment is placed between the sleeve and the bar ends.

13. (Original) The splice of claim 12,
wherein the sleeve segment has a tapered outer surface; and
wherein the sleeve is a tapered collar having a tapered inner surface for
engaging the tapered outer surface of the sleeve segment.

14. (Original) The splice of claim 13, wherein the sleeve segment includes
multiple sleeve segment sections hingedly coupled together.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The splice of claim 13, wherein the clamp includes an additional
tapered collar.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The splice of claim 12, wherein the clamp also includes plural
bolts that pass through threaded bolt holes in the sleeve to press the ribs into the
deformations.

19 and 20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The splice of claim 18, wherein the bolts are driven into the bars.

22. (Original) The splice of claim 21, wherein the bolt holes are substantially diametrically opposed to the insert, on opposite sides of the bars.

23. (Currently Amended) The splice of claim 18,
wherein the bolts are driven into an insert between the fasteners and the bars;
and
wherein the insert is a toothed insert having circumferential teeth for biting into
the bars.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The splice of claim 18, wherein the bolts pull together generally parallel flanges of the sleeve, tightening the sleeve segment around the joined bars.

26. (Original) The splice of claim 18,
wherein the sleeve includes a pair of sleeve halves; and
wherein the bolts pass through one of the sleeve halves and into the other of the sleeve halves, thereby pulling the sleeve halves together and tightening the sleeve segment around the joined bars.

27. (Original) The splice of claim 12,
wherein the sleeve includes a pair of sleeve portions that each have axially

protruding fingers; and

wherein, when the sleeve portions are forced axially toward one another, at least some of the fingers press inward when the fingers of one of the sleeve portions are interdigitated with the fingers of the other of the sleeve portions.

28. (Original) The splice of claim 1, wherein the sleeve segment is a part of a single-piece sleeve for surrounding the bar ends.

29. (Original) The splice of claim 28, wherein the clamp includes bolts that pass through threaded bolt holes in the sleeve.

30-42. (Canceled)

43. (Original) A method of splicing reinforcing bars having deformations thereupon, the method comprising:

placing longitudinal ribs of a sleeve section against ends of the bars; and
pressing the longitudinal ribs onto the bars, causing them to conform to the bar deformations.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the ribs are softer than the reinforcing bars.

45 and 46. (Canceled)

47. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the pressing includes placing notches the ribs conforming to the deformations on the bar ends.

48. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the pressing includes flattening top portions of the ribs.

49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the flattening includes causing the top portions of adjacent of the ribs to contact one another.

50. (Canceled)